

Today's News - Thursday, December 3, 2015

EDITOR'S NOTE: Apologies for not posting the last two days - we were in road-warrior mode and, apparently, the technology gods were none too happy...sorry 'bout that!

- ArcSpace brings us Kiser's take on UNStudio's Arnhem Central Station in The Netherlands (only about 20 years in the making).
- Venturi and Scott Brown win the 2016 AIA Gold Medal (they're the first pair, and she's the "first living woman" - and only the second woman - to win); LMN Architects takes home the 2016 AIA Architecture Firm Award; and lots more top honors (great presentation).
- Arch Record names its 2015 Design Vanguard, an international bunch "that are championing new approaches to design and practice" (great presentation, too).
- Eyefuls of the 2015 Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence winners.
- Betsky offers a most interesting musing on the "changing of the old guard" of starchitects: "Here's to the next avant garde, with fear, loathing, and a great deal of hope."
- Stott ponders whether "architectural preservationists know what they're fighting for. If architectural preservation is an act of recording history, what matters is not whether a given building is good, but rather whether it is important" (hopefully, "important" and "good" design will "coincide").
- Altabe has a few issues with Libeskind's "point that architecture needs to be more confrontational" (more than Hadid's and Gehry's - and his own?) - "why can't the signs of turmoil in such buildings be artfully expressed?"
- Stein reports on an in-depth symposium that explored "the vexed question of authenticity in architecture through the lens of copyright law."
- Goldhagen digs deep into why The Broad, overall, is such "a disappointment. Its incoherence, its poor urbanism and its unoriginality suggest that the transition from critics to makers may have DS+R stumped."
- King pulls out all the stops in a fascinating chronicle of the Lucas Museum saga (a fab read!).
- Kamin reports that Smith + Gill's kilometer-high Jiddah Tower (formerly Kingdom Tower) gets the funding needed to keep it "on track to be world's tallest."
- Wiles cheers Foster and Aravena as "unlikely allies in the pursuit of real architecture. In a world filled with architecture, it's pleasing to see architects examining their purpose, and finding the edge and role of the real thing."
- Moore cheers Assemble and its "striking range of projects, including the Turner-shortlisted Granby Four Streets in Liverpool, that resolutely value people not profits. Let's hope they'll soon be planning cities."
- Campbell-Dollaghan reports on the winning design to transform Singapore's defunct cross-country railroad "into the world's longest High Line" (15 miles long!).
- American architects have "a steep learning curve to overcome" when it comes to designing to Passive House standards, "but the movement is starting to gain traction."
- A neglected block of storefronts in Long Beach, CA, get a much-needed - and refreshingly lively - makeover (check out the before/after pix!).
- Enterprise Community Partners issues "Ready to Respond: Strategies for Multifamily Building Resilience" manual that offers affordable housing owners "retrofit strategies that will help protect and adapt their properties to a variety of climate hazards."
- Eyefuls of the six shortlisted designs for the Tintagel Castle footbridge: the "proposals show a love of materials and engineering panache."
- Tuskegee University names alumna Carla Jackson Bell as dean of School of Architecture and Construction Science, "one of two African American women to be named dean of an architecture program and the first to lead a construction science program."

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UNStudio: Transfer Terminal - Arnhem Central Station, The Netherlands: The future of train travel...opens after 20-years of development: ...the new "front door" of the city, embracing the spirit of travel...constructed using boat building techniques on a scale never before attempted. By Kirsten Kiser [images]

Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown Win the 2016 AIA Gold Medal: ...icons of Postmodernism are the first pair to win the Institute's top honor: ...Scott Brown will be the first living woman to receive the award...LMN Architects Wins the 2016 AIA Architecture Firm Award. -- Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates; VSBA Architects & Planners; R. Steven Lewis; Terrance Brown Wins; Douglas S. Kelbaugh- Architect Magazine

2015 Design Vanguard: ...emerging firms from around the world that are championing new approaches to design and practice. This year's group blurs national boundaries, with many architects working from multiple offices on different continents. -- OBBA, Seoul; Atelier ARS°, Guadalajara, Mexico; Baldrige Architects, Austin, Texas; Studio Anne Holtrop, Amsterdam/Bahrain; O-Office Architects, Guangzhou, China; Losada García Architects, Cáceres, Spain/San Diego; Arch Studio, Beijing; Studio Farris, Antwerp, Belgium; Studio Link-Arc, New York City- Architectural Record

2015 Canadian Architect Awards of Excellence winners announced: ...have recognized significant building projects in Canada on an annual basis since 1968. By Elsa Lam - BIG - Bjarke Ingels Group/DIALOG/James KM Cheng Architects; RDH Architects; KANVA/NEUF architect(e)s; MASS Design Group; etc. [images]- Canadian Architect magazine

Starchitects: The Next Generation: the changing of the old guard of architecture already underway: Here come the new bosses, just like the old bosses? Maybe, but I still believe this time it will be different, and that this generation of designers will...pick up where the last generation left off when they sold out and settled down. Here's to the next avant garde, with fear, loathing, and a great deal of hope. By Aaron Betsky- Architect Magazine

Do Architectural Preservationists Know What They're Fighting For? If...architectural preservation is an act of recording history, what matters is not whether a given building is good, but rather whether it is important...with any luck important design will usually coincide with good design, but when they don't it is not up to us to erase the past simply because it doesn't conform to our current values. By Rory Stott -- Adam Nathaniel Furman; Gillian Darley [images]- ArchDaily

When architecture pays tribute to tragedy: While Daniel Libeskind's points about our terror-fraught world and our over-dependence on historic architecture are well-taken, his point that architecture needs to be more confrontational is not. Has he forgotten all the in-your-face work by Zaha Hadid and Frank Gehry? ...why can't the signs of turmoil in such buildings be artfully expressed - the way of all great art? By Joan Altabe -- Nick Benjacob- Examiner

Does architecture need to be original? An in-depth symposium in New York discussed the vexed question of authenticity in architecture through the lens of copyright law: ...panel [was] less concerned with how architecture is legislated than with law as a set of conditions with the potential to shape design in practice...The consensus seemed to be that it was OK to invoke the statute a little abstractly, if doing so helped to illuminate broader questions of authenticity, authorship and influence. By Amelia Stein -- Architectural Works Copyright Protection Act (AWCPA)- Guardian (UK)

Deconstruction Site: The Broad...The good news is that the museum's exterior and main exhibition space hold their own. But

overall [it] is a disappointment, and the ways in which it fails are more than a little concerning...Its incoherence, its poor urbanism and its unoriginality suggest that the transition from critics to makers may have DS+R stumped...The Broad's failures of urban design are its biggest and most disappointing surprise...In the end, it's an architectural muddle. By Sarah Williams Goldhagen -- Diller Scofidio + Renfro- [Art in America](#)

Chicago mayor, Lucas a nearly unstoppable force for art museum: ...nothing has derailed the pair's intentions - not a lawsuit by longtime lakefront defenders...not the opposition of the city's largest newspaper and its architecture critic, who likened the design to a "giant lump"... "There's this history in Chicago where you make your own topography. We're flat as a pancake," John Ronan said. "Lucas fits into that tradition." By John King -- Blair Kamin; Ma Yansong/MAD Architects [\[images\]](#)- [San Francisco Chronicle](#)

Funding keeps Chicago architect's skyscraper on track to be world's tallest: ...previously called the Kingdom Tower and now known as the Jiddah Tower, is expected to exceed a height of 1 kilometer, or 3,280 feet. That would top the Burj Khalifa by at least 563 feet...Published reports have said it will have 170 stories. By Blair Kamin -- Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM); Adrian Smith + Gordon Gill Architecture- [Chicago Tribune](#)

Foster and Aravena are moving architecture out of the shallows and into deeper water: while many architects are designing slippery "architecture", Norman Foster and Alejandro Aravena are unlikely allies in the pursuit of real architecture: The presentation is very different: old hand versus firebrand. But in fact [their] remarks have a lot of in common...In a world filled with architecture, it's pleasing to see architects examining their purpose, and finding the edge and role of the real thing. By Will Wiles - [Dezeen](#)

Assemble: the unfashionable art of making a difference: The young members of the London collective have created a striking range of projects, including the Turner-shortlisted Granby Four Streets in Liverpool, that resolutely value people not profits. Let's hope they'll soon be planning cities. By Rowan Moore [\[images\]](#)- [Observer \(UK\)](#)

Singapore Is Turning a Cross-Country Railroad Into the World's Longest High Line: ...Keretapi Tanah Melayu line, a Colonial-era railroad that was built in 1903...shuttered four years ago...Singaporean government was left wondering what to do with its remains...winning design...is essentially a 15-mile-long park "spanning the entire nation of Singapore"... By Kelsey Campbell-Dollaghan -- Nikken Sekkei; Tierra Design; Arup; MKPL Architects; Turenscape International [\[images\]](#)- [Gizmodo](#)

Cornell Tech Project Tests 'Passive' Design in the U.S.: Property would be first residential high rise in the world that is also a passive house: American architects curious about the European building style found there was a steep learning curve to overcome...But the movement is starting to gain traction. -- Handel Architects; Baxt Ingui Architects- [Wall Street Journal](#)

Facade Improvement in Central Long Beach Revitalizes Neglected Block of Storefronts: ...a block well-used and frequented thanks to the Metro Blue Line Station, yet clearly dilapidated and in need of improvements...made possible thanks to a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a federally-funded program used to remove blight and spur community development... -- Gwynne Pugh Urban Studio [\[images\]](#)- [Long Beach Post \(California\)](#)

"Ready to Respond: Strategies for Multifamily Building Resilience" Manual Helps Affordable Housing Owners Protect against Extreme Weather: ...retrofit strategies that will help protect and adapt their properties to a variety of climate hazards...with input from over 50 technical experts... [\[link to manual\]](#)- [Enterprise Community Partners](#)

Revealed: Designs by finalists in Tintagel Castle bridge contest: ...new footbridge will link the ruins of the 13th-century coastal castle, the mythical home of King Arthur, and the nearby headland..."proposals show a love of materials and engineering panache." -- Dietmar Feichtinger Architectes/Terrell; Marks Barfield Architects/Flint & Neill; Ney & Partners Civil Engineers/William Matthews Associates; Niall McLaughlin Architects/Price and Myers/Max Fordham; RFR/Jean-François Blassel Architecte/HRWWSP; WilkinsonEyre/Atelier One [\[images\]](#)- [The Architects' Journal \(UK\)](#)

Tuskegee University chooses alumna as new dean of School of Architecture and Construction Science: ...Carla Jackson Bell...one of 12 tenured African American women architecture faculty in the United States and the first to receive a doctoral degree specializing in architecture education...one of two African American women to be named dean of an architecture program and the first to lead a construction science program.- [Tuskegee University](#)

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